

Application No.: 09/786,325

Docket No.: 21581-00255-US

REMARKS

Claims 19-72 are now in the application. Claims 1-18 have been cancelled without prejudice to their reentry at some later date.

New Claim 56 is supported by the original Claim 10 and line 35 of page 18 to line 5 of page 19 of the specification.

New Claim 57 is supported by original Claim 10 and lines 23-27 of page 19 and lines 8-18 of page 24 of the specification.

New Claims 58-65 are based on original Claims 2-5, 7-9 and 11.

New Claim 66 is based on Claim 12 and further recites a process for preparing the vinyl polymer.

New Claims 67-72 correspond to original Claims 13-18.

Claims 56-72 are directed to the elected invention. The lack of unity objection is again traversed. In the Office Action, Examiner states that Group I requires a silanol functionality, while Group II requires that there be no silanol functionality.

In the above amended claims, new Claim 66 is based on Claim 12 which belonged to Group I, and new Claims 70-72 correspond to Claims 16-18 which belonged to Group II but differ there from since new Claim 70 depends from new Claim 66, and recites "further comprises a polymer, said polymer having a silicon atom-bound hydrolysable group(s) and no silanol group". It is therefore clear that the curable composition of Claim 70 further contains a polymer having a silicon atom-bound hydrolysable group(s) and no silanol group in addition to a vinyl polymer having a silanol group at one or more termini thereof.

Therefore, Claims 66 and 70 have a common technical feature containing the vinyl polymer having a silanol group at one or more termini thereof. Claims 66 and 70 and their dependent claims satisfy the unity of invention requirement. Claims 19-55 read on non-elected inventions and may be cancelled by the Examiner upon the allowance of the claims directed to the elected invention.

Concerning new process claims 56-65, Claims 56 and 57 are independent claims. Claims 56 and 57, respectively recite the new method of introducing an alkenyl group into the polymer. Contrary to this, Kusakabe et al., fail to disclose or suggest a method of introducing an alkenyl

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group into the polymer recited in Claims 56 and 57. Therefore, the above new Claims 56, 57 and their dependent claims are novelty and non-obvious.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 103(a) as obvious over Kusakabe et al. Kusakabe et al. fail to anticipate and fail to render obvious new claims 56-72. New Claim 66, which corresponds to Claim 12, recites curable composition comprising the vinyl polymer having a silanol group at one or more termini thereof prepared according to the process of Claim 56 or 57. Contrary to this, Kusakabe et al., does not describe or suggest the above vinyl polymer prepared according to the process of Claim 56 or 57.

Therefore, new Claim 66 and its dependent claims 67-72 are novelty and non-obvious.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21581-00255-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Burton A. Amernick

Registration No.: 24,852

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036-3425

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorneys for Applicants